(b) whether Government is considering uniform quota in IIT faculties; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no Central law / regulation at present for reservation of seats in unaided private professional institutions.

(b) and (c) The Government have issued letter dated 09.06.2008 to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) asking for implementation of 15%, 7½% and 27% reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs respectively for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Professors and Lecturers in Science and Technology subjects and in all faculty posts for subjects other than Science and Technology.

Means-cum-merit scholarship

1425. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has approved a means-cum-merit scholarship of Rs.6000 per year, to prevent economically weak but meritorious students from dropping out of school;

(b) if so, whether the Finance Minister has approved that each year, at least one lakh scholarships of Rs.6000 per annum would be awarded to students from class IX to XII;

(c) whether only students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs.1.5 lakh per annum, would be eligible for scholarship;

(d) whether scheme was announced in 2007-08's budget and Rs.750 crore was allocated and a similar amount was allocated in this years's budget; and

(e) if so, to what extent the amount allocated so far has been provided to needy students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme to award one lakh scholarships of Rs.6000 per annum every year was announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech in 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scheme was announced in the budget speech in 2007, but no amount had been allocated in the budget for the year 2007-08. No amount was originally allocated in the budget for 2008-09, but a supplementary provision of Rs.761.54 crore has since been made.

(e) No amount has been released to students, as Rs.750 crore out of the amount provided as supplementary grant is meant to create a corpus, and the interest earned is to be used towards scholarships.

Use of Hindi

1426. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: